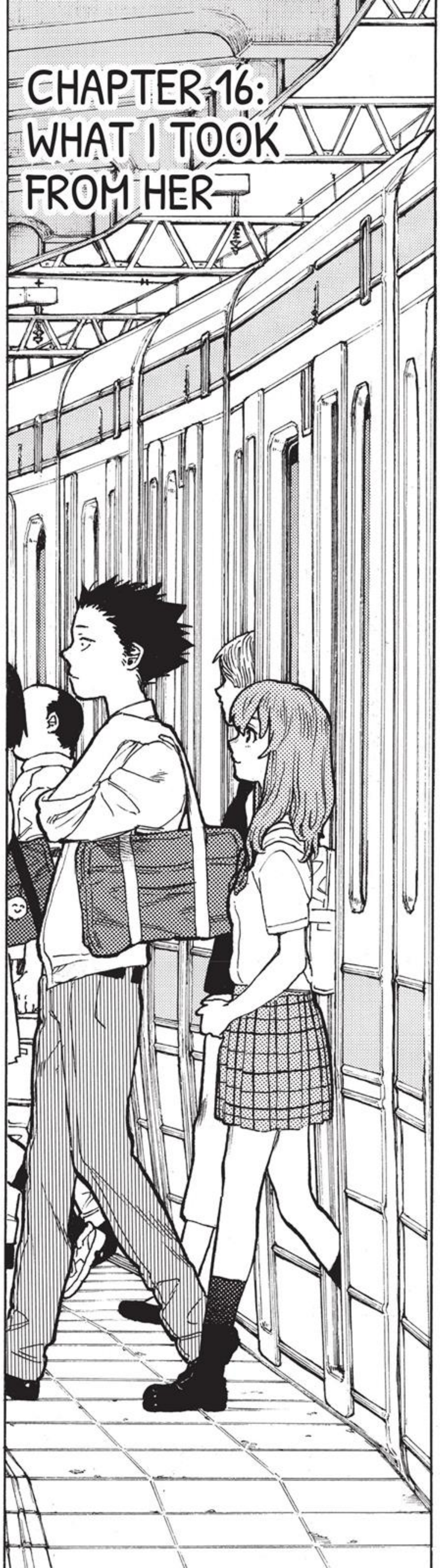
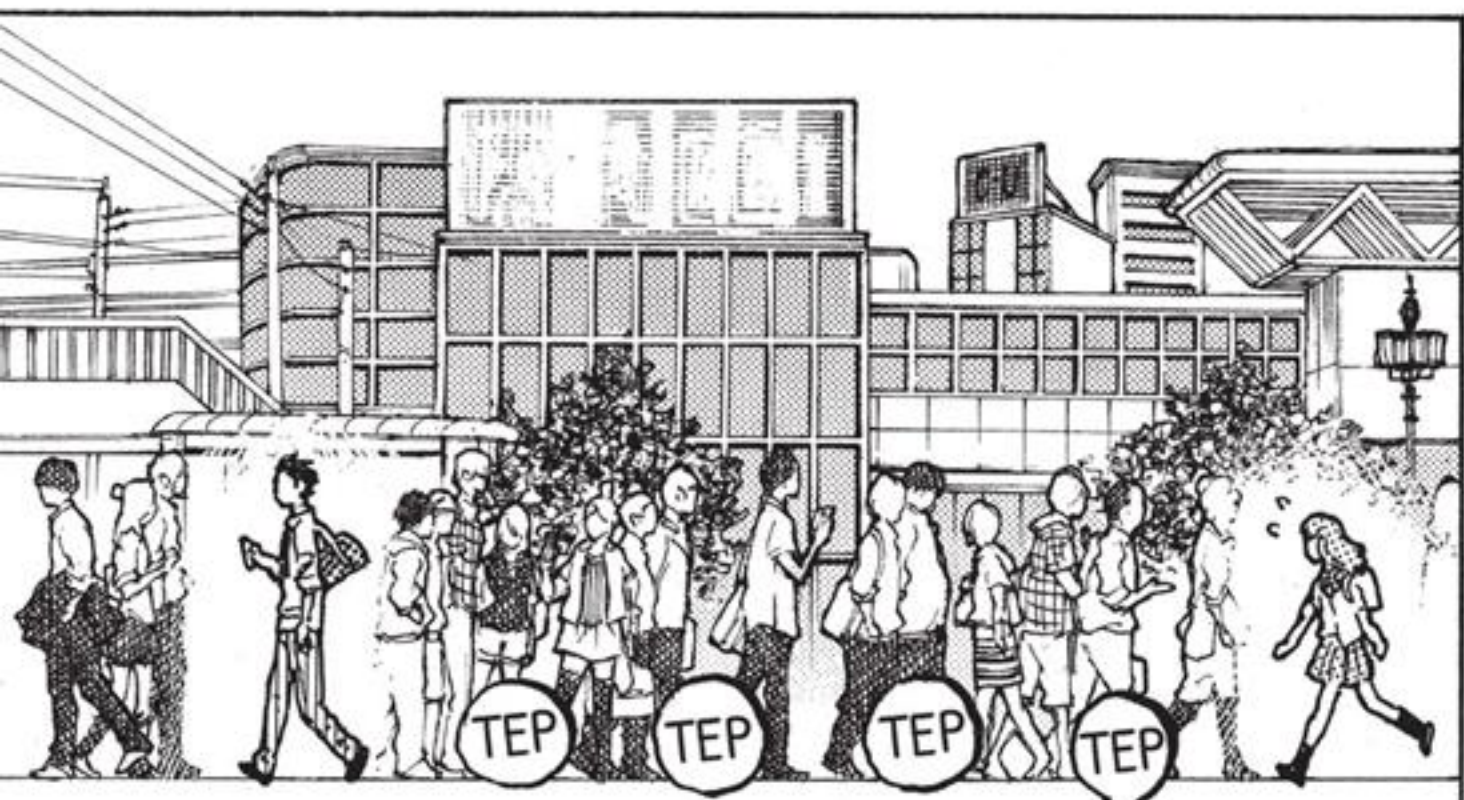
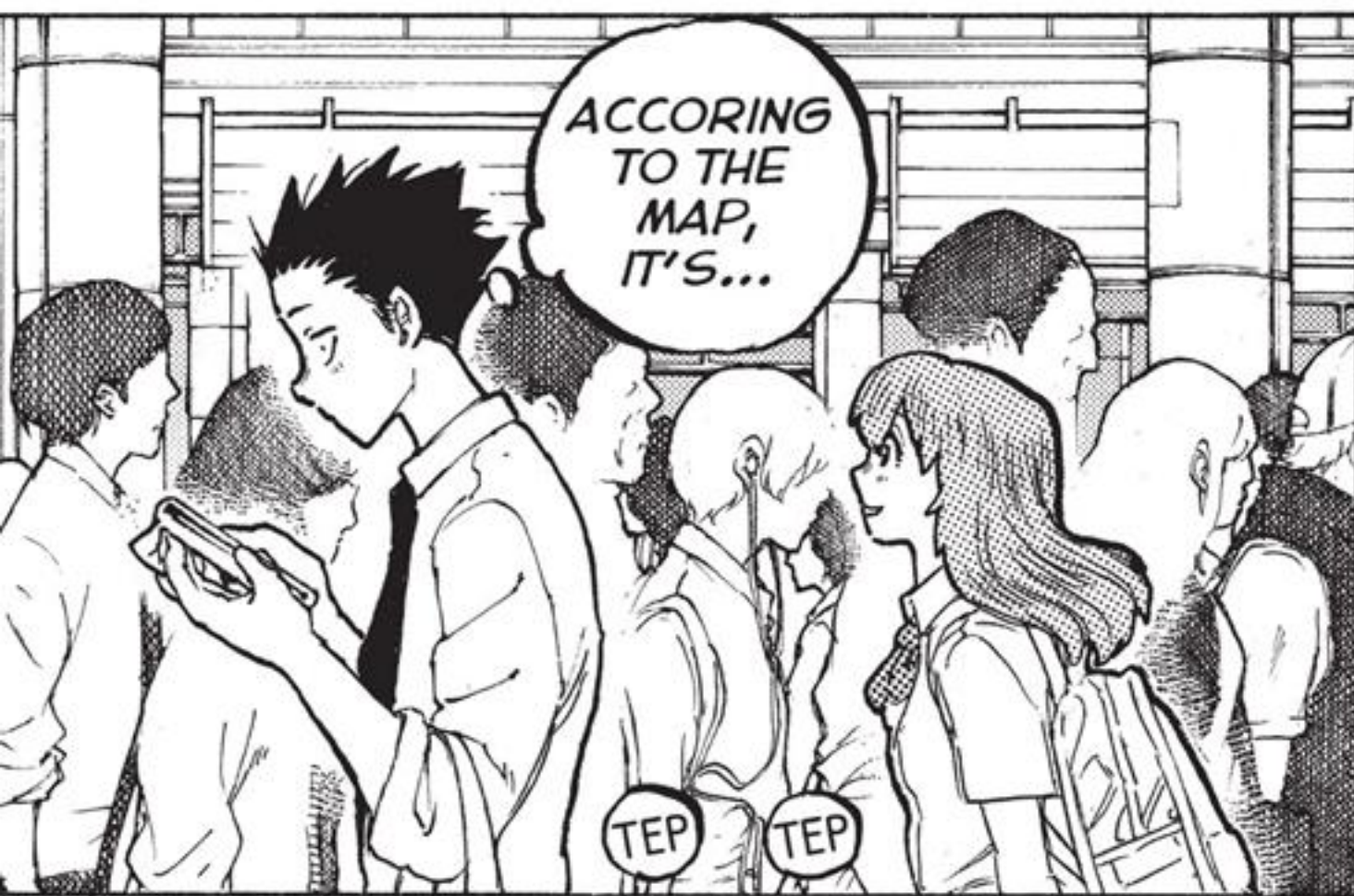
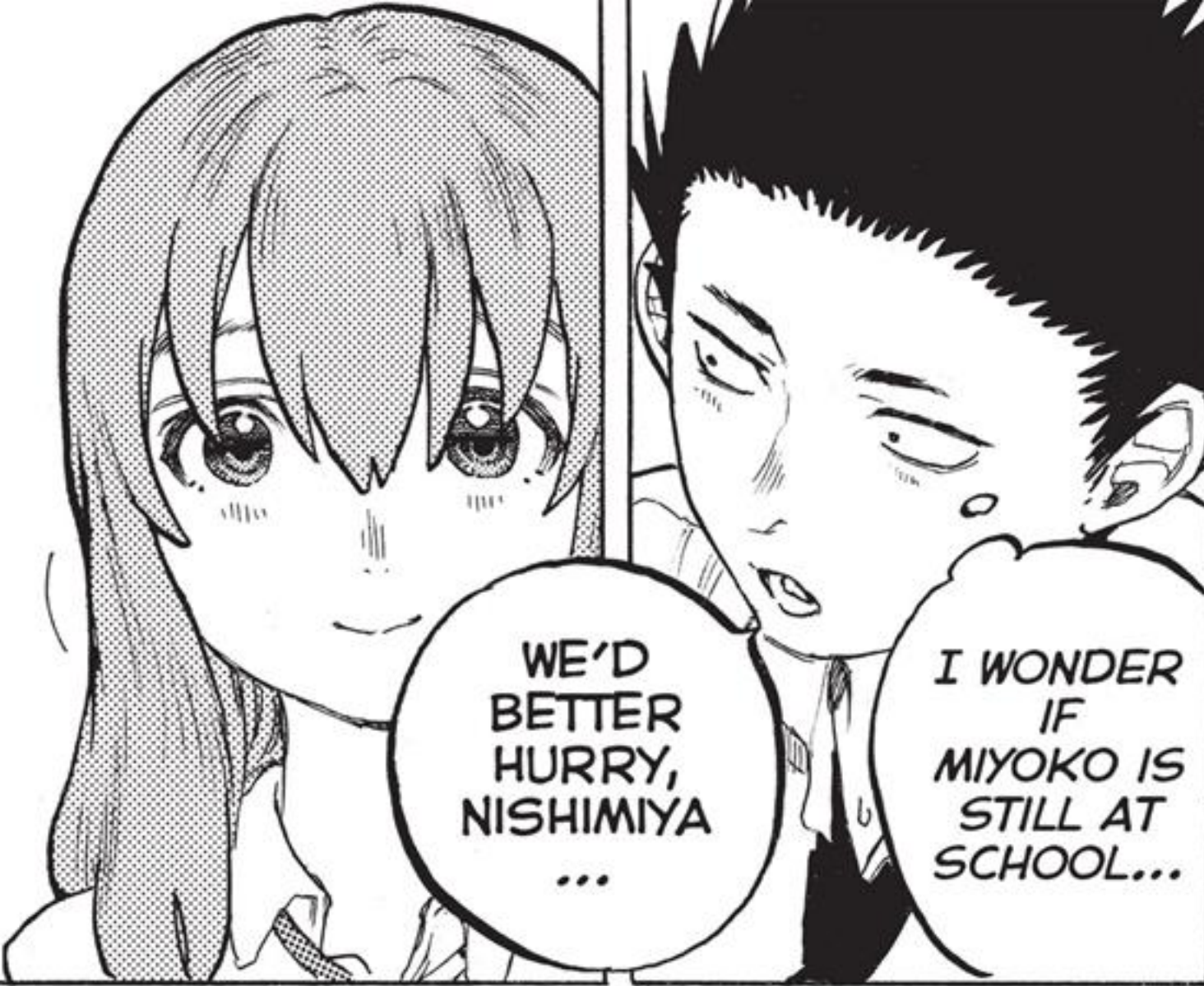
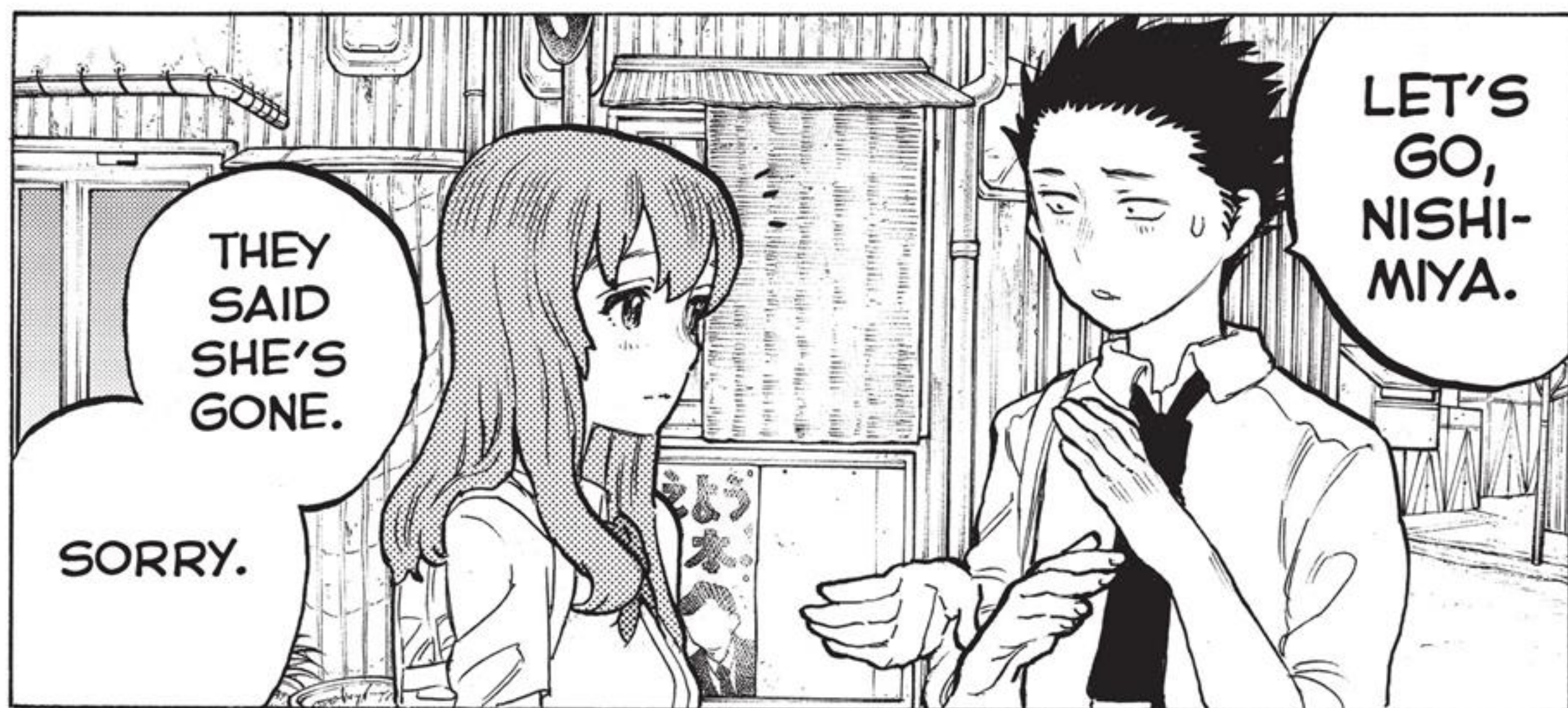
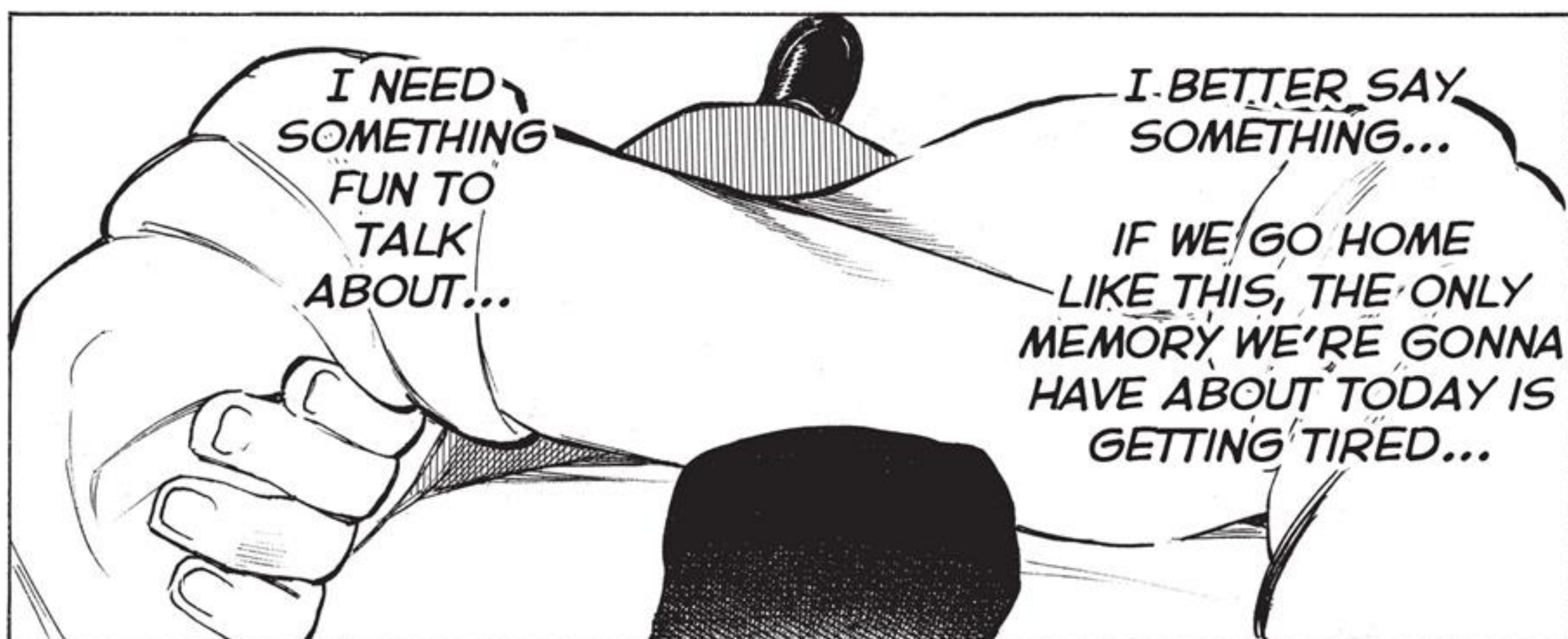
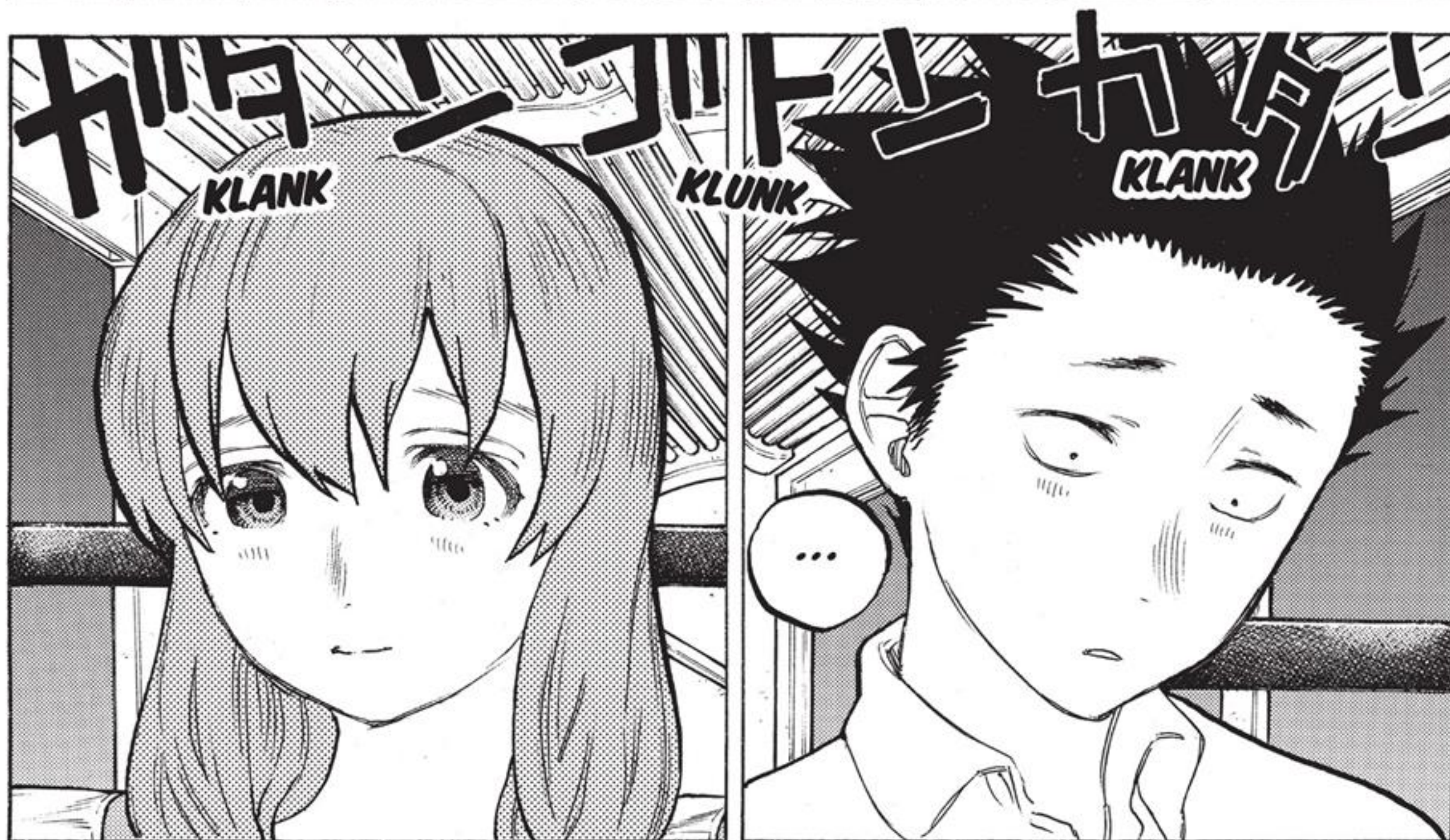




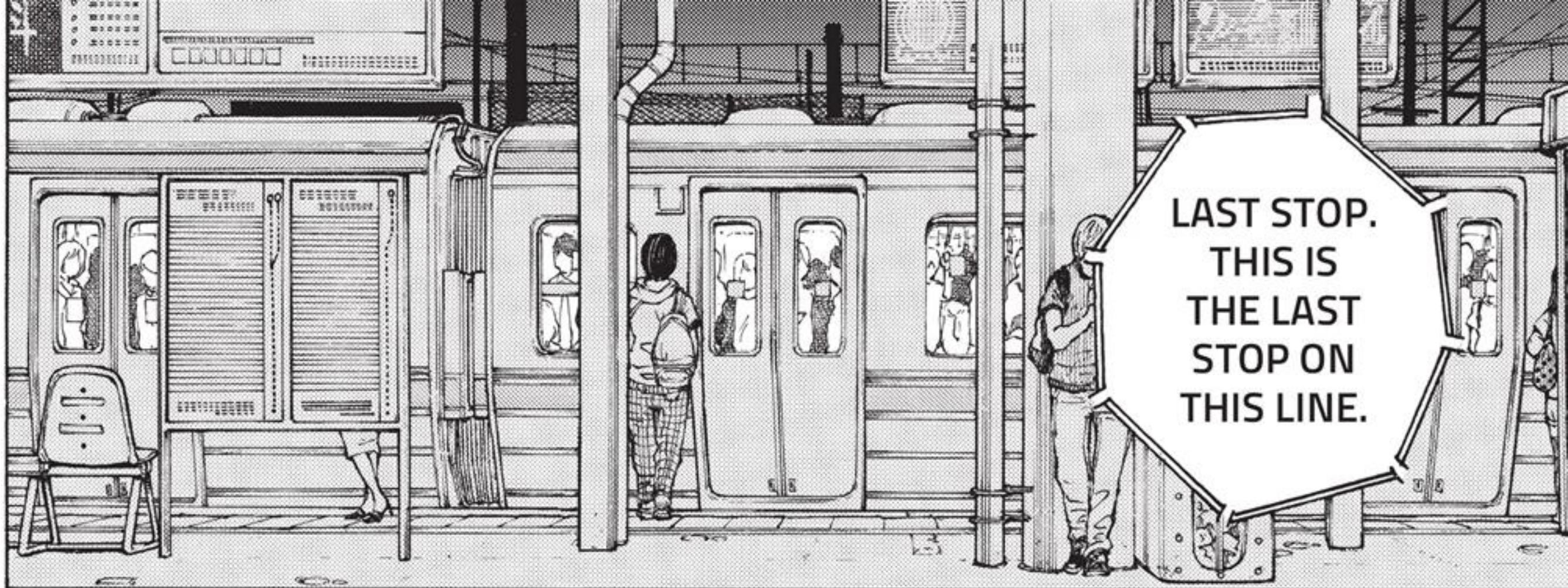




*¥1,600: AROUND \$16.00







IN THE END,
I
ACCOMPLISHED
NOTHING.

W-WELL,
I GUESS THIS
IS WHERE
WE SPLIT UP,
NISHIMIYA.

BOW



SEE
YA.

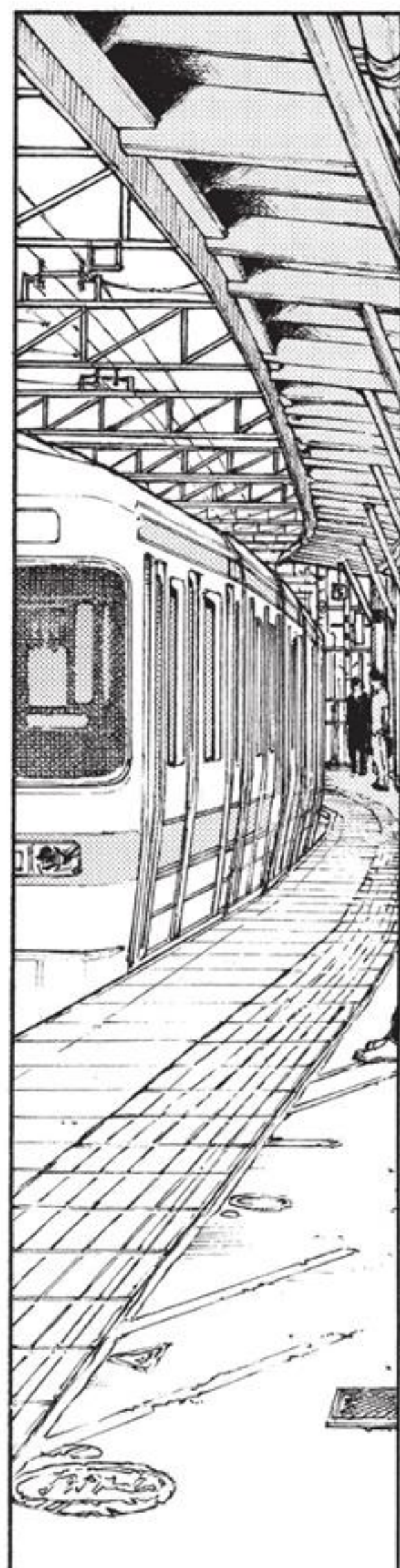
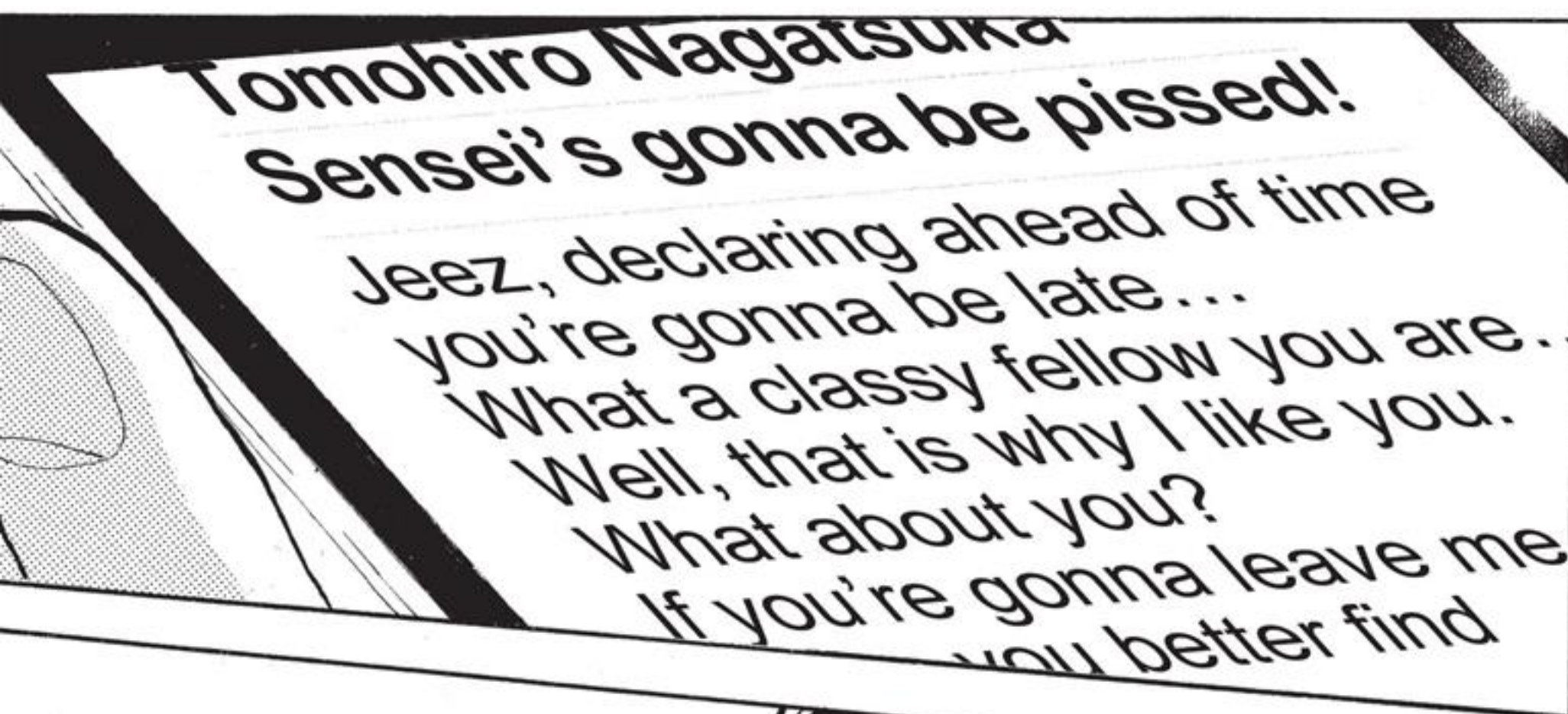
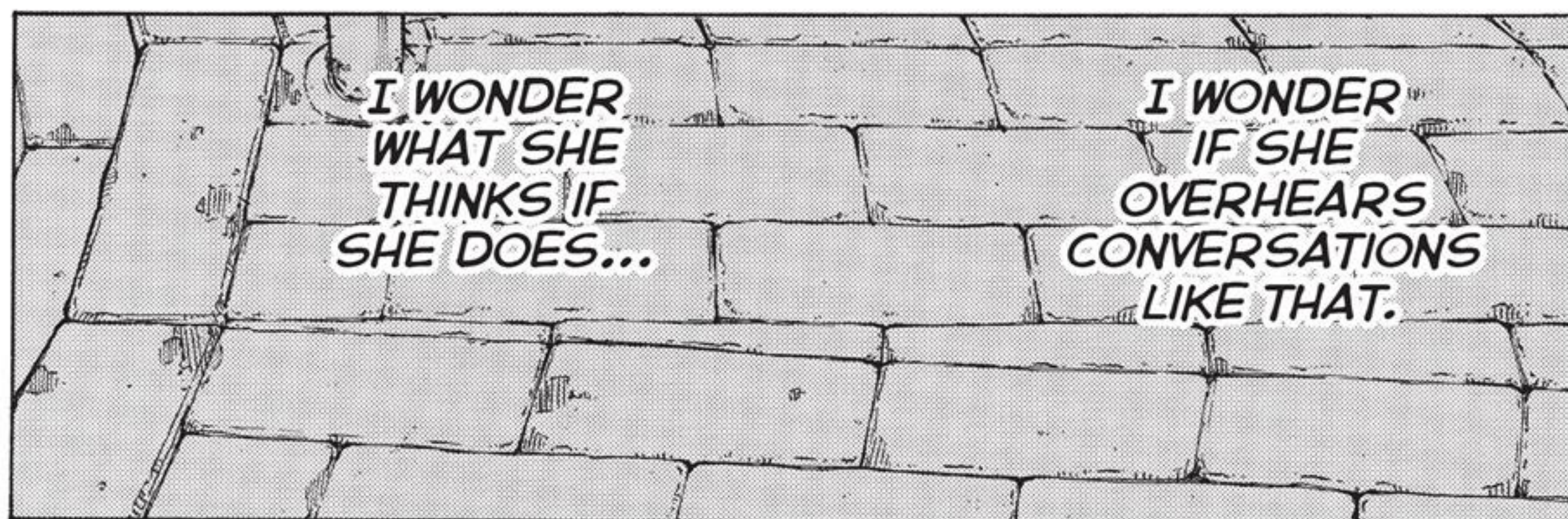


THEY'RE
SO LUCKY!
I WANNA
LEARN SIGN
LANGUAGE
!

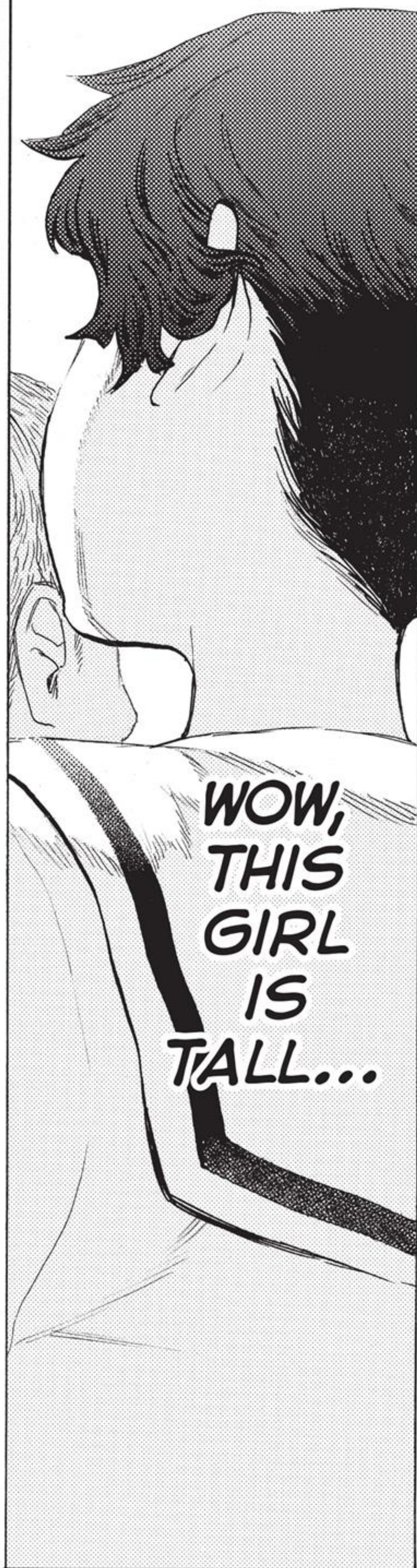
DID YOU
SEE THAT?
THOSE TWO
WERE USING
SIGN LAN-
GUAGE!

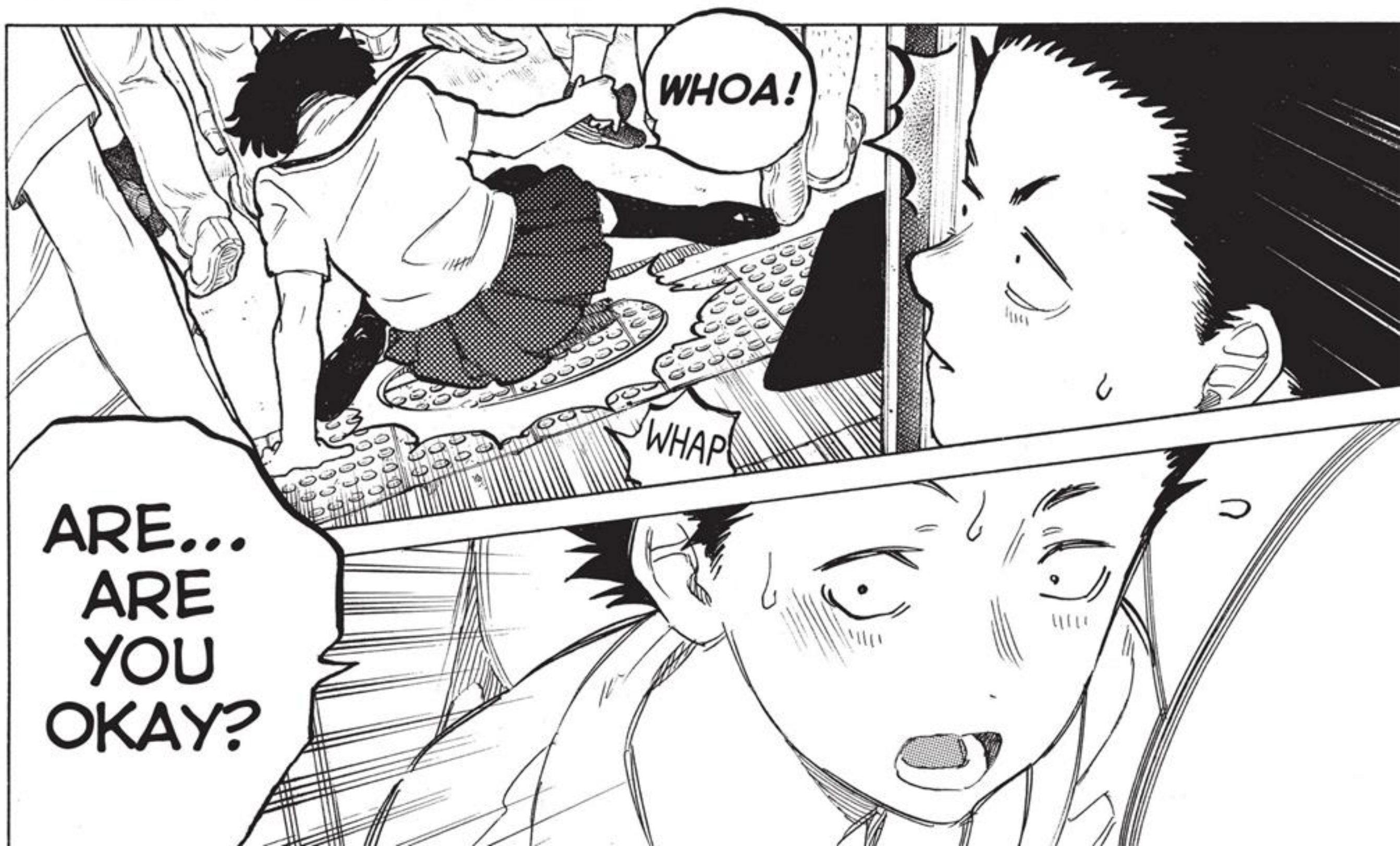
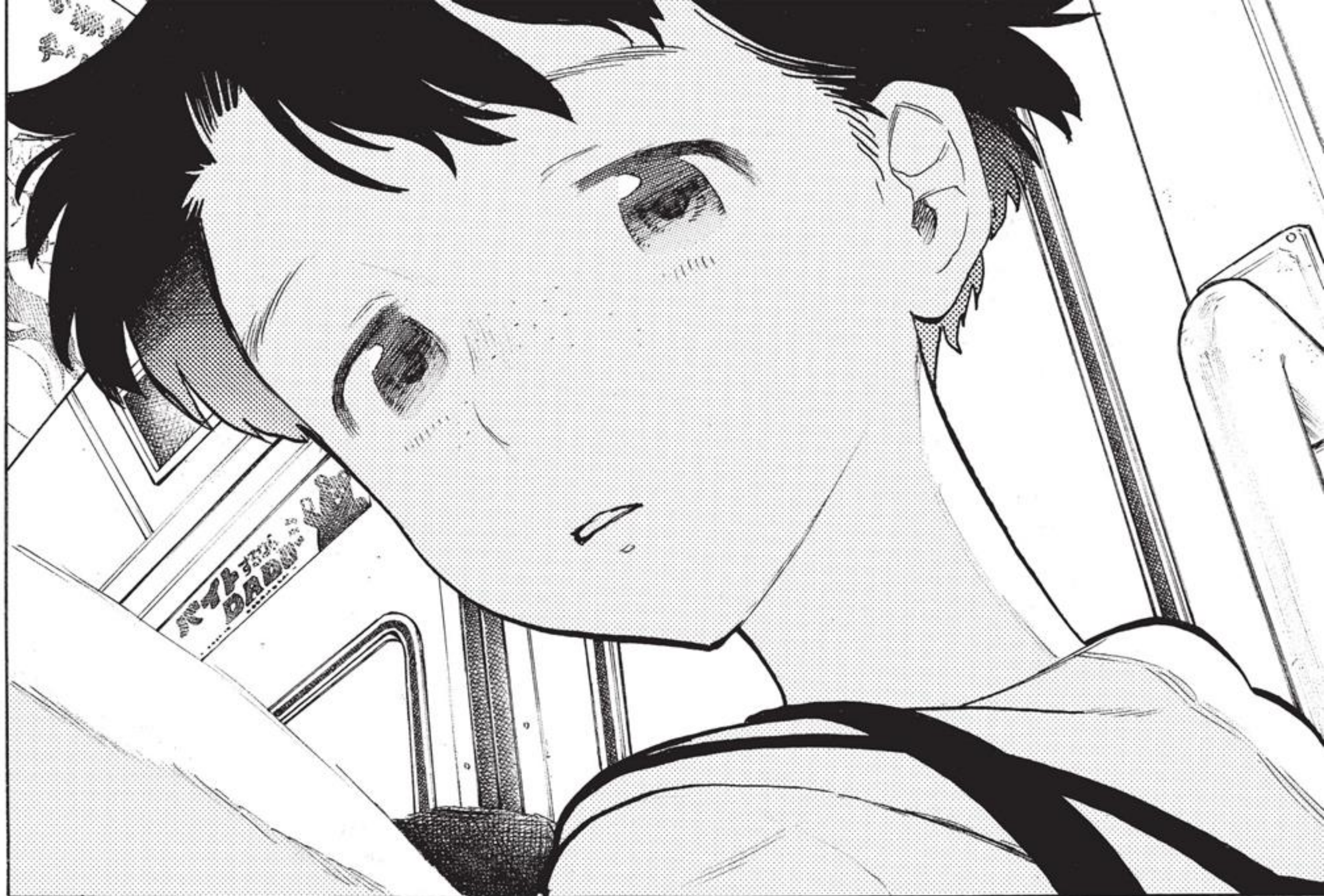


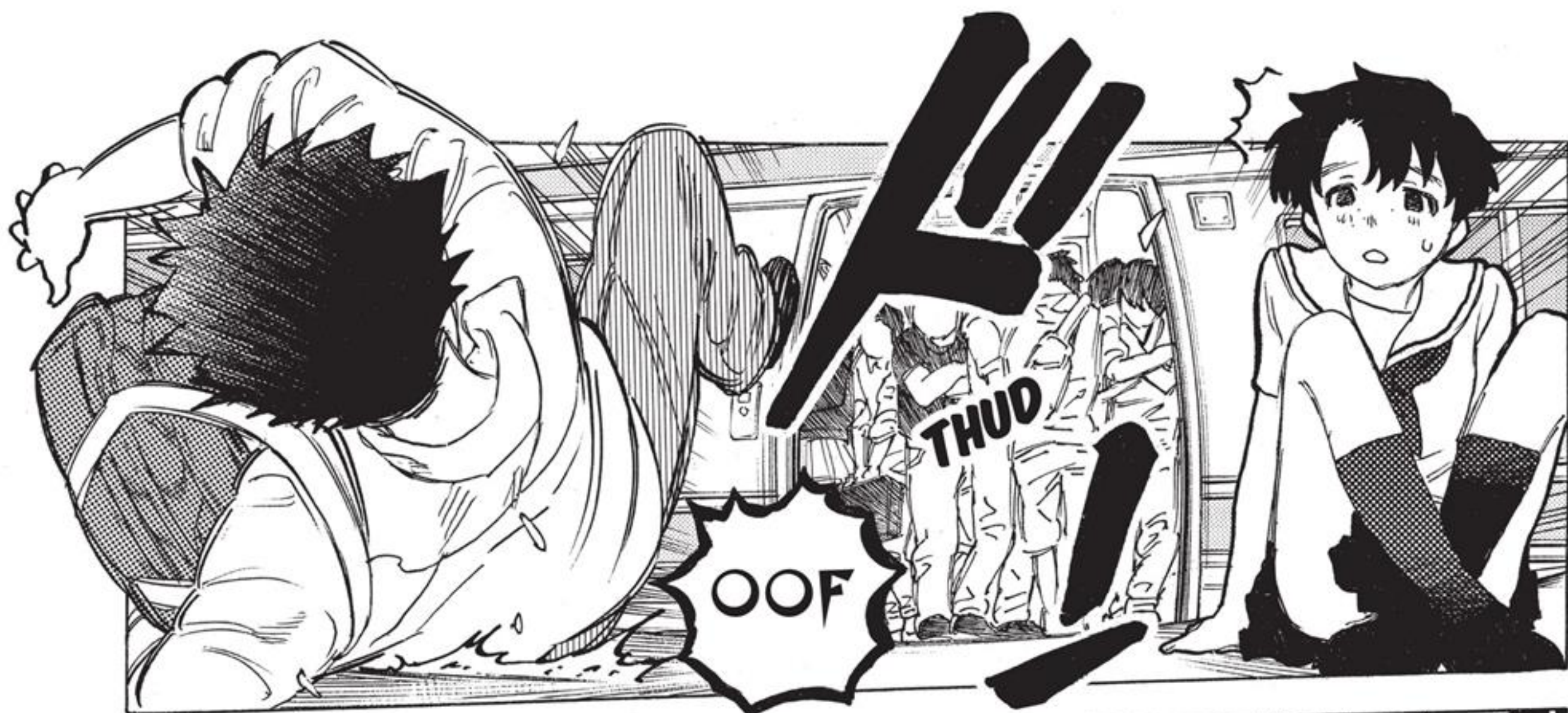
WATCH
YOUR
MOUTHS,
GIRLS.

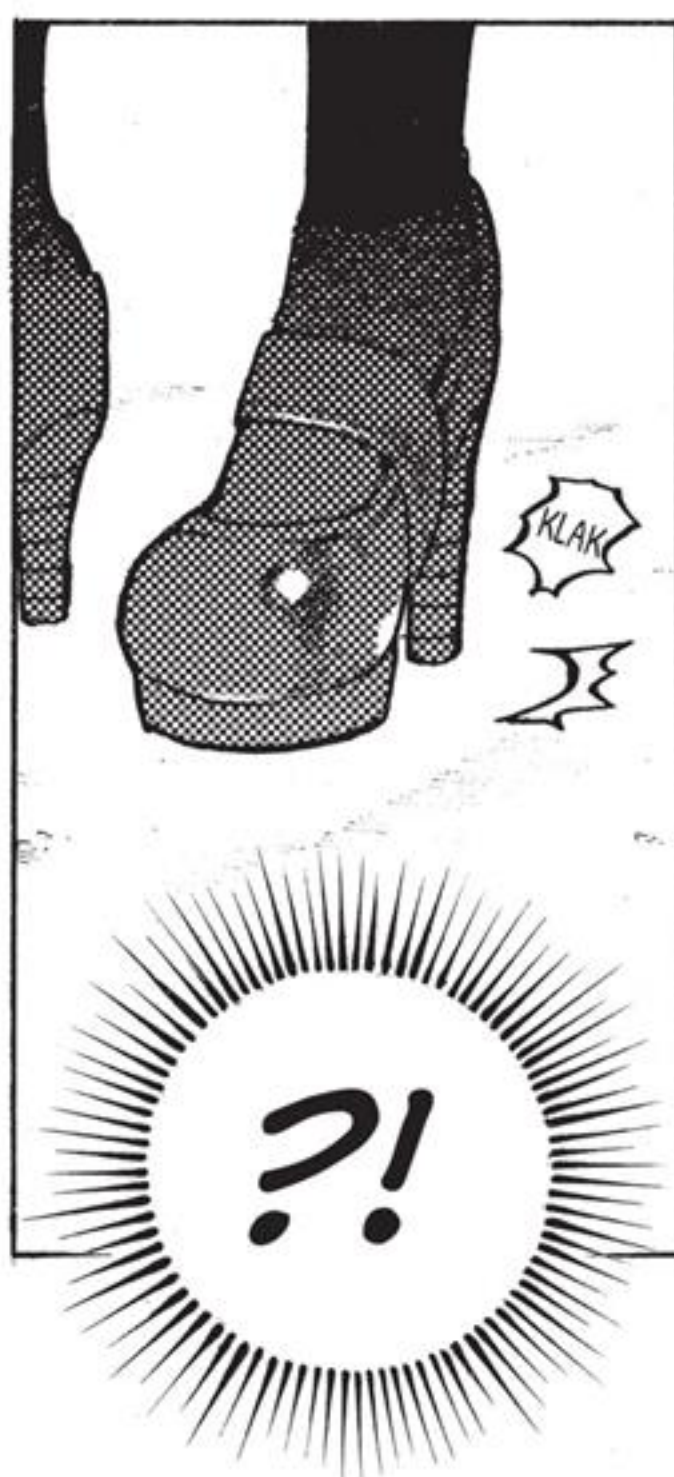
















YEAH.

SHOULD
WE GET
GOING?

AFTER
SCHOOL

SORRY I
TOOK SO
LONG!



**LET'S
GO SEE
NISHIMIYA.**



...BUT I
HAVE
BEEN
SEEING
HER
A LOT
LATELY.

THESE
DAYS... WELL,
WE'RE STILL
NOT EXACTLY
WHAT YOU'D
CALL
CLOSE...



OH...
YEAH...
NOT
BACK
THEN...

YOU AND
NISHIMIYA
DIDN'T REALLY
SEEM LIKE
FRIENDS
TO ME...



BY THE WAY,
SHOYA...



...I SHOULD
HAVE GOTTEN
TO KNOW HER
WELL ENOUGH
TO HANG OUT
WITH HER.

NO...



I'D LIKE
TO GET TO
KNOW HER
WELL ENOUGH
TO HANG OUT
WITH HER...

LUCKY.



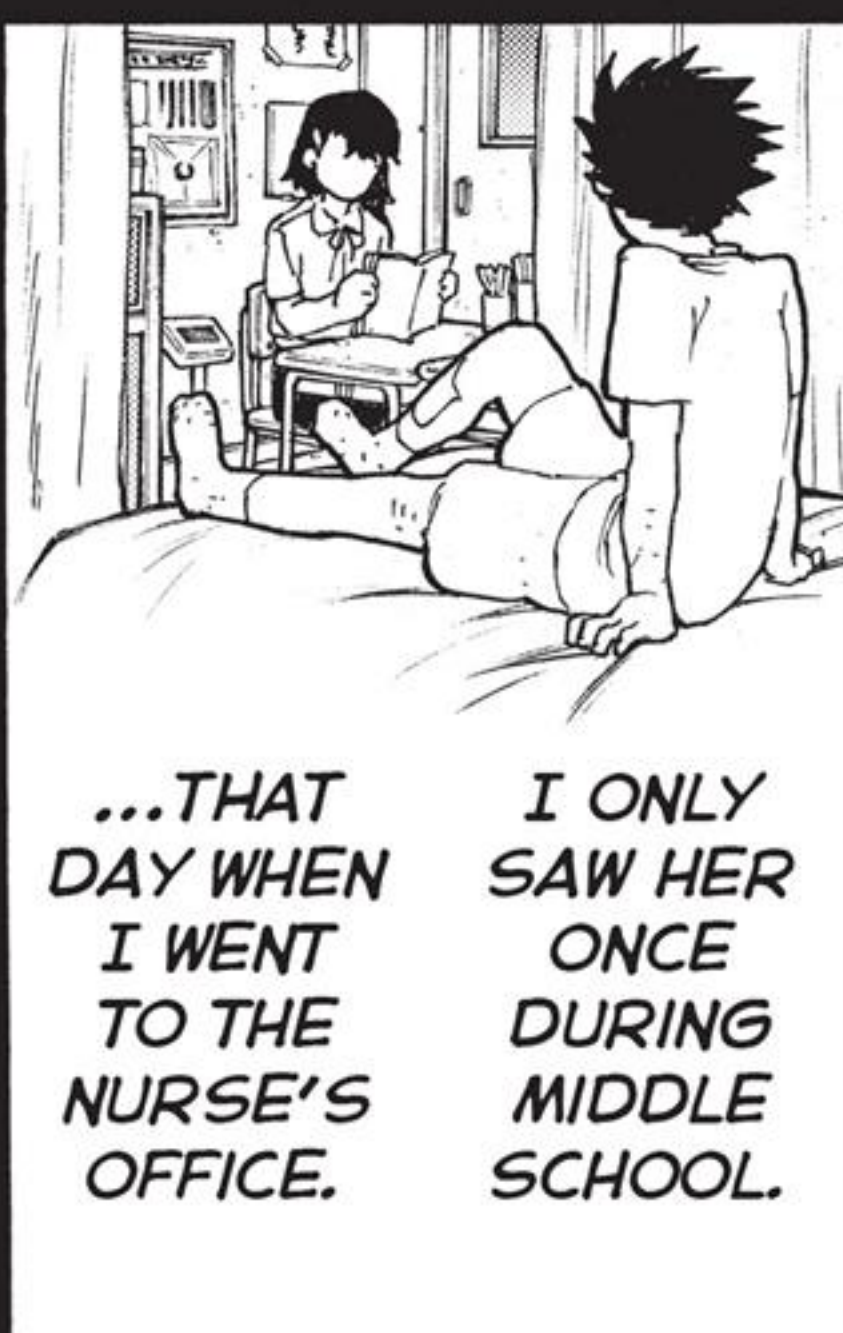
SHE ONLY
CAME
BACK FOR
GRADUATION.

...SO SHE
DIDN'T
SEE HOW
BAD I
TREATED
NISHIMIYA.

MIYOKO
STOPPED
COMING TO
SCHOOL...



SHE WAS
READING
SOME
BOOK
THE
WHOLE
TIME.



...THAT
DAY WHEN
I WENT
TO THE
NURSE'S
OFFICE.

I ONLY
SAW HER
ONCE
DURING
MIDDLE
SCHOOL.



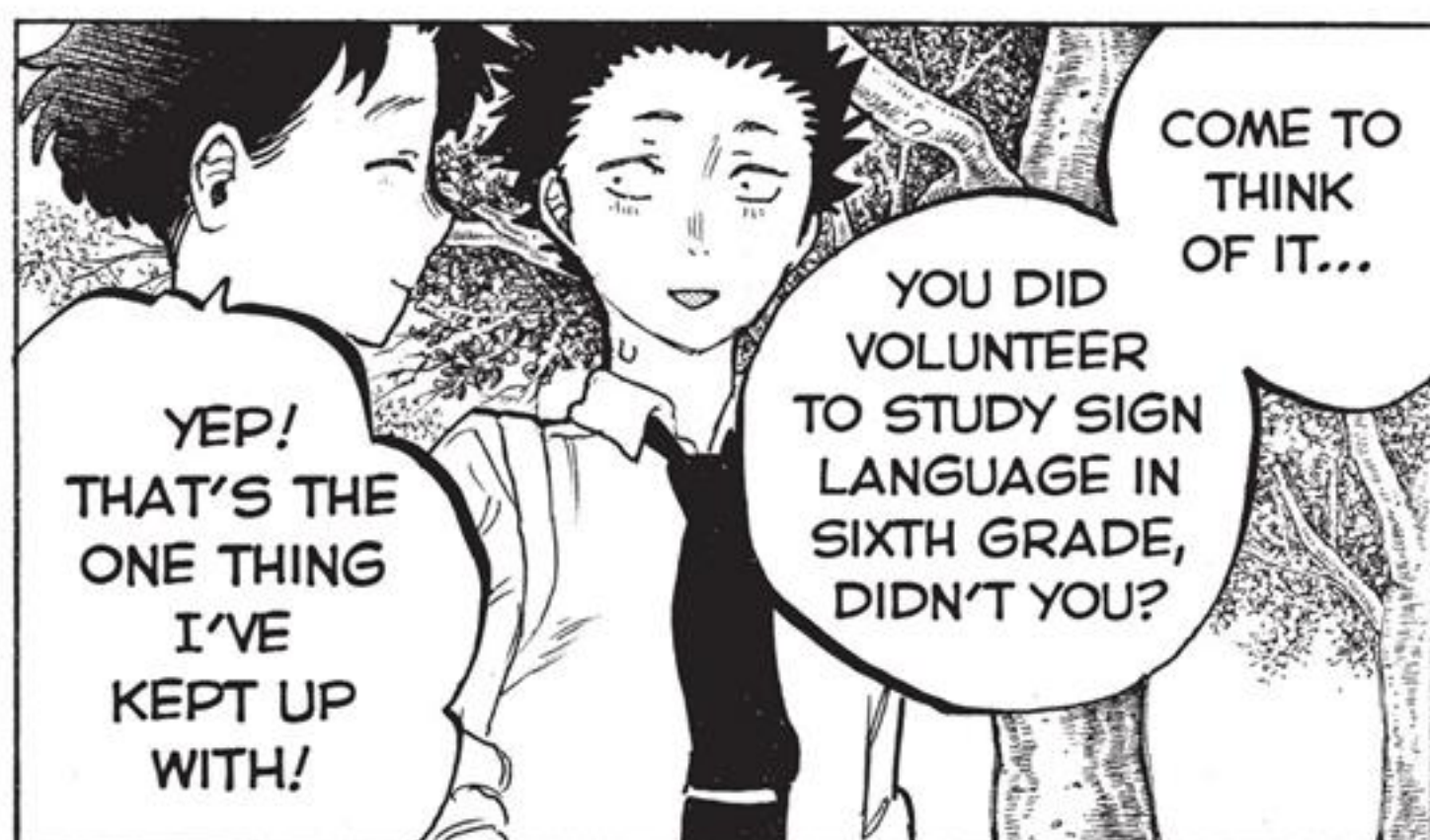
BY THEN,
NISHIMIYA
HAD
ALREADY
TRANS-
FERRED.

THAT DAY,
MIYOKO
DIDN'T
SPEAK TO
ANYONE.



I WAS
READING
...

...A
BOOK
ON SIGN
LAN-
GUAGE.



YEP!
THAT'S THE
ONE THING
I'VE
KEPT UP
WITH!

YOU DID
VOLUNTEER
TO STUDY SIGN
LANGUAGE IN
SIXTH GRADE,
DIDN'T YOU?

COME TO
THINK
OF IT...



I'M SO
HAPPY...

BUT...
I'M ABOUT
TO GET MY
CHANCE...



BUT I'VE
STILL GOT
A LONG
WAY TO
GO...

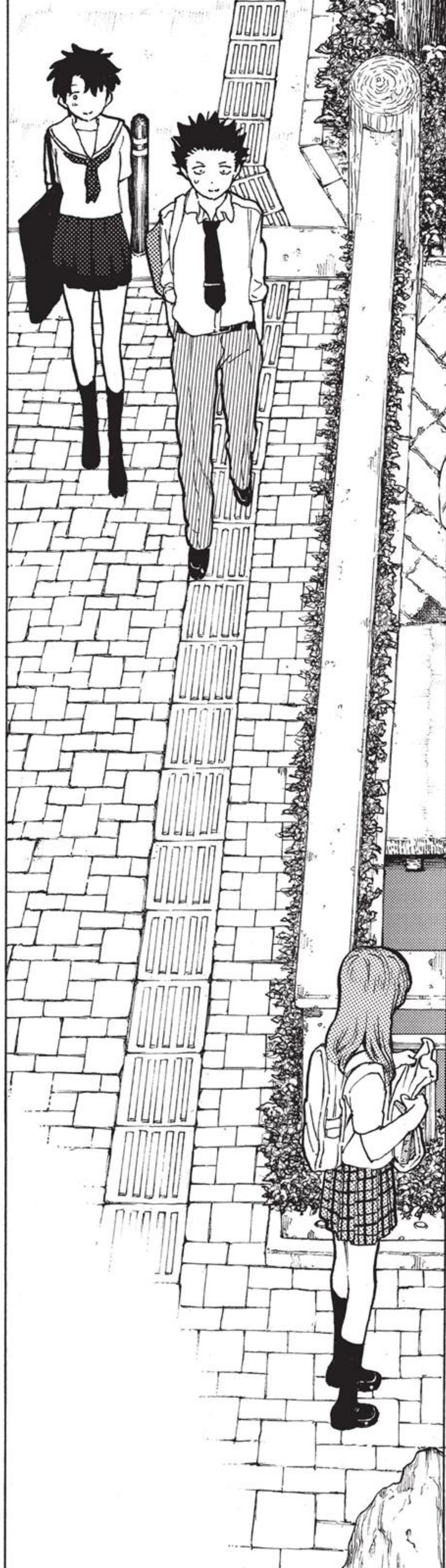
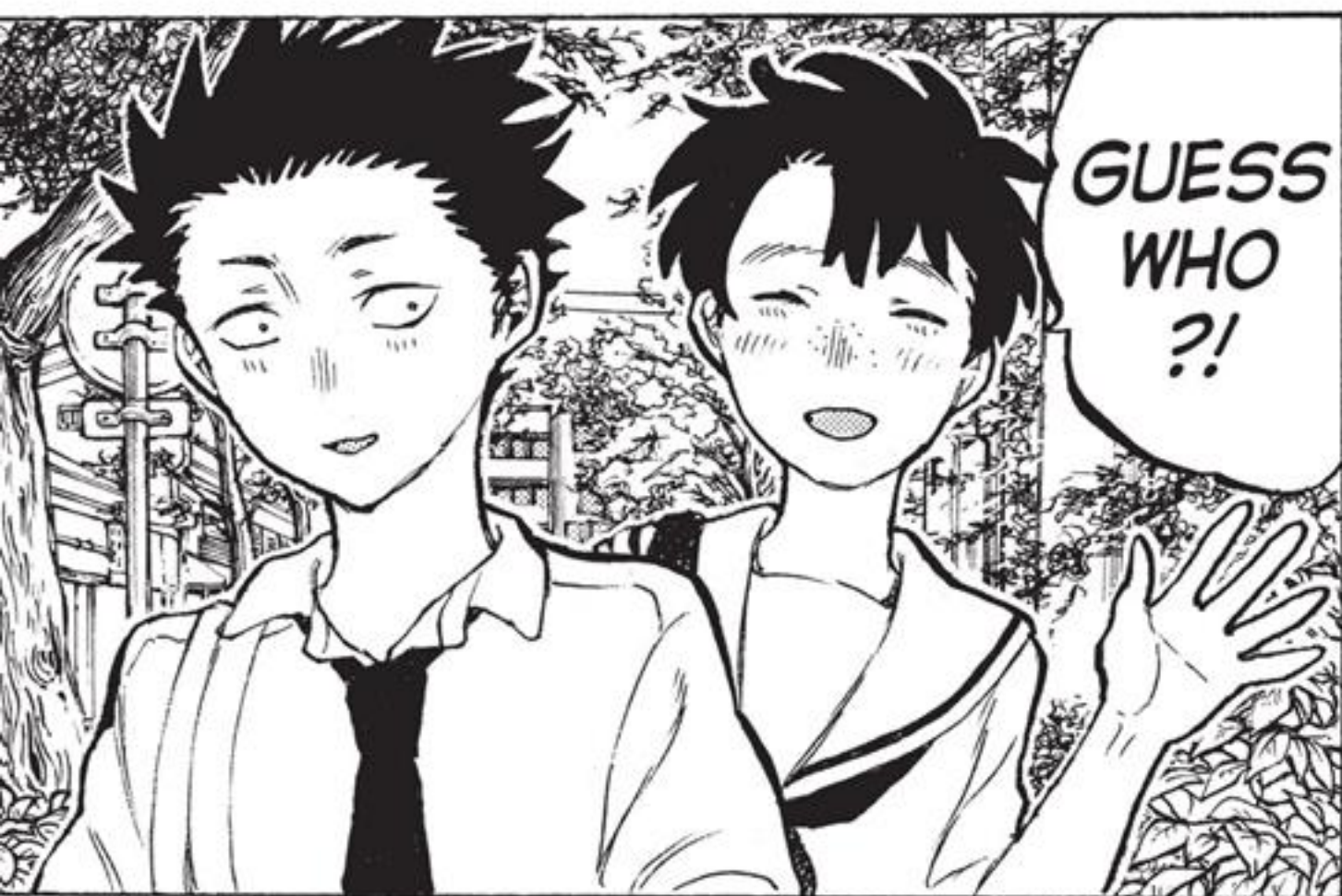
AND I
STILL
HAVEN'T
USED IT
ONCE...



YEP.

IN THE
NURSE'S
OFFICE?

YOU
WERE
?!!!







IT WON'T
BRING BACK
SHOKO'S
RUINED
CHILDHOOD.

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
YOU
STRUGGLE...





AND IF
NISHIMIYA
HAD BEEN
THERE IN
MIDDLE
SCHOOL,
MAYBE
MIYOKO
WOULD
HAVE COME
TO CLASS.



IF NISHIMIYA
HAD BEEN
AT SCHOOL
ON GRADU-
ATION DAY,
MAYBE
MIYOKO
WOULD
HAVE SAID
SOMETHING.



I'M THE
ONE WHO
TOOK THAT
FROM
THEM.

"I MUST
RESTORE
THE
MANY
THINGS
I TOOK
FROM
NISHI-
MIYA."



WHEN I
SAW THEIR
SMILES,
I THOUGHT
TO MYSELF...